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THE UNITARIAN

A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS

OUR SEASIDE CHURCHES

WALLASEY

By Edric Shaw

The Unitarian Movement in Wallasey, although only a young cause compared with many others, traces its foundation to April 8th, 1888 when in the Albert Hall, New Brighton, the first of a series of twelve services to be held on consecutive Sunday evenings, was conducted by the Rev. E. A. Armstrong; the remainder of the series being conducted by various Unitarian ministers from Liverpool. In the following late autumn, a series of eight Sunday evening lectures was delivered in the Discard Concert Hall, a more central position, and this was followed by another series in the Spring and early Summer of 1889.

There was no spectacular growth at first and after nearly three years effort, inspired to a large extent by the enthusiasm and made possible by the hard work of William Elam, regular Sunday evening services were established, conducted mainly by members of the newly-formed congregation, helped by the Rev. H.

EDITOR'S CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Will contributors, senders of Calendars and readers please note that from the last week of September the Editor's address will be:

The Parsonage,
Sylvan Grove,
Altrincham,
Cheshire.

Please send all calendars for October onwards to this address.

W. Hawkes, of Bootle and the Rev. V. D. Davies, of Liverpool. Soon afterwards, the Liverpool District Missionary Association gave financial help, which resulted in the appointment of the Rev. Priestley Prime as the first minister, in September, 1891. After only a short time he was compelled, for reasons of health, to leave the district and was succeeded by the Rev. V. D. Davies, B.A., from the Ancient Chapel of Toxteth, in Liverpool.

Until September, 1892, the cause was still without a permanent home, but then an "iron church" together with its site, was purchased from the Wesleyans and two years later a £200 organ was installed therein, the whole cost of which was raised by the efforts of the congregation and, after a really magnificent Sale of Work, all debts were cleared and there was a substantial sum left in hand. The cause prospered but on September 30th, 1896 suffered a grievous loss with the death of William Elam to whom, more than anyone else, the success of the new movement was due. In 1897 his widow, Mrs. Martha Elam, with great generosity, offered to build and furnish a new church and church hall, in memory of her late husband. The new church, known as THE MEMORIAL CHURCH, WALLASEY, was completed and opened on Saturday, September 30th, 1899.

The Rev. V. D. Davis, to whom a great deal of credit for the building of the new church must be given, for he it was who suggested to Mrs. Elam the idea that the Memorial Church should be built in her lifetime rather than that she should leave the money for this purpose in her will, as she had first intended, was appointed Editor of the "Inquirer" and was succeeded by the Rev. J. M. Lloyd Thomas in 1898.

The new Church, designed by Messrs. Ware and Rathbone, Architects, of Liverpool, was built by Mr. James Merritt, of Birkenhead. Its design is unusual and possesses character and dignity. Seating ab 300, it is built of Ruabon brick w stone facings; the chancel is c panelled, the Communion Table of oak, decorated with symb designs and is surmounted decorative panels of Della Rob ware, designed by Mr. Harold Ra bone, with figures representi Justice, Mercy and Humility with scroll underneath with the w known text from Micah "What d the Lord require of thee but to justly, to love mercy and to wa humbly with thy God?" Above t main panels there is a symbolic presentation of "the Spirit broodi over creation."

A treasure of great interest in t Church is a "Breeches Bible."

As always the Memorial Chur warmly welcomes any visitors to t district who may look in.

RECOMMENDED

"British Unitarianism: Past, Present and Future

By John Kiel

Thomas Minns was minister the First Church in Boston, U.S.A and the Thomas Minns Fund wa established through the will of h sister, Sarah, to provide for annu lectures on religion or religio subjects.

Three of the 1959 lectures we given by the Rev. John Kielt Secretary of the General Assembl under the title "Britis Unitarianism: Past, Present an Future," and these are no published in booklet form by th Lindsey Press at 2s. 6d.

By this publication a gap i Unitarian literature is filled: w must go back to W. G. Tarrant "The Story and Significance of th Unitarian Movement," the Esse Hall Lecture of 1910 and re-printe in 1947, for the last history of ou movement which could be recom mended to "the man in the pew."

The first lecture covers the perio up to the formation of the Genera

embly in 1928 and the second the iod since. The final lecture culates on future Unitarian ology and organisation based on trends and needs of the present. Ir. Kielty lays no claim to being historian but this booklet loses hing for that. It should be in the ssession of every active Unitarian. n't be put off by the use of the m "lecture." Mr. Kielty was re-sted to adopt a popular approach t he has certainly succeeded in s.

Franklyn Johnson.

Vo dear, you will never be asked to give the Minns' lecture."

NITARIANS IN THE EWS

Miss Heather Lister, of Stand, had poem published in "The Girl ide" recently.

The Rev. A. W. Vallance was ducted to the ministry of the ler Yard Chapel, Chesterfield in ne. The service was conducted by Rev. J. H. Smith. Charge to the nister was given by the Rev. G. S. nitby and charge to the congrega-n by the Rev. J. M. Hall. The son was read by the Rev. Elspeth llance.

The induction of the Rev. J. R. ackburn to the ministry of Ply-outh took place on June 8th. The arge to the minister was given by e Rev. A. H. Birtles and the charge the congregation by the Rev. J. Maw.

The Rev. Griffith J. Sparham, B.E., of Hibbert Houses has been appointed Chairman of the Council for Voluntary Welfare Work for the Forces Committee in Cyprus, and has been invited to join with Service Chaplains in broadcasts to the Forces.

Mr. Arthur Critchley, Chairman of Altrincham, has completed 40 years membership of the 5th Altrincham Scouts.

Mr. G. R. Plummer has been appointed Senior Fourth Officer of R.M.S. Pendennis Castle, flagship of the Union Castle Line.

After a ministry of twenty-one years the Rev. S. P. Whitehouse is leaving Dukinfield in September to become minister at Bournemouth in succession to the Rev. L. Redfern.

MATTHEW 7 : 7 RE-READ

By Bruce Findlow

Once upon a time there were three men who used to have a drink together in the local most evenings and talk about politics, football and religion. One evening after a particularly heated argument about the uselessness of churches it dawned upon each of them as they went their separate ways home that they really knew very little about religion at all. Tom thought he should get some religion so he bought a few paper-backs on world religions and the gospels and a life of Jesus and began to read. He got on fine for a little while but then the contradictions and puzzles began to appear in his books and so he had to read more books to solve them. He is still reading books about religion.

Dick read some paper-backs also when he heard what Tom was up to but after a while he realised how many he might have to read so he put the books away and began going round to different churches on Sunday evenings to see what they were like, and what the preachers said, and how the people behaved. He didn't join any, he didn't talk to many people but he looked on and studied religion in churches and found so many differences of

custom and so many apparent weaknesses that he's still going round and looking on.

Harry read some books and visited some churches and talked to some parsons and went on arguing with his friends over a pint at the pub but a day came when he realised that he was just looking at religion and he decided to be religious instead and see what happened. He joined the church which seemed best to him, he worshipped and worked in it, he learnt how to pray a little by himself, he tried to be good without being dull in his everyday life. He got some religion and he knows that he knows a little about religion. He argues less.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

THE RETURN

Hello, everyone! This is Raymond again—and about time, too! I don't think it's fair keeping me out all this time just because I got stuck with the gardening.

Anyway, I suppose you think I never do anything right? I always seem to be on the wrong side—but I'm not! *Sometimes* I get things right. I'll go further—I get things right *often!* Of course, nobody else agrees with me. Mum, Dad, Lisbeth, Uncle George, even Alf, all think that where goes trouble, there go I. Dad says we walk hand in hand. Raymond is born unto trouble, he says, as the sparks fly upward.

Still, I'll bet (no, I shouldn't really, that's wrong)—I should think that if *I* had written the Corner during the last few months, you'd have seen a different side of the picture each time. I mean, I *was* going to tell you about the Robin Hood play, but I didn't know just how to put it—to phrase it properly you see? You'd have thought everybody else got through the play without any trouble at all, wouldn't you? Well,—I suppose they *did*, really, but they don't *always*. There've been lots of times when they haven't. I can't think of any just at the moment; but they have nothing to bo about. There are plenty worse th me; but, of course, you've not hea about *them*. Dad says nobody worse than I am; he says nobo *could* be. But then, perhaps h prejudiced. (I hope that's right).

As I was saying, it's not right a it's not fair; I'm going to stand for myself . . .

"Er—Raymond?"

"Yes, Uncle George?"

"Have you finished?"

"Well, no, not really. I was ju about to start."

"You're too late. Time's up."

"But, Uncle George, I've got tell everybody about the camp."

"Next time, Raymond, I'm afraid

"But, Uncle George . . .!"

"I'm sorry; but you've been so fu of righteous indignation that you' run away with the space. Now, f goodness' sake, calm down a bit f next month."

"Yes, Uncle George. Er—goodby everybody—for now!"

UNITARIAN PROGRESS?

A group of student teachers wh have been instructing PLYMOUT Youth Club in the "art" of "Roc 'n' Roll" will shortly give lesson in ballroom dancing to be followe by a course in Scottish dancing.

BOOKS BY THE WAY

Some Recent Paper-back by John Rowlan

One or two readers have sugges ted to me that, while it is of in terest to hear of new books publishe at high prices, the average reade in these days tends only to *borro* books which are published at guinea or thirty shillings, wherea he *buys* quite a number of book published cheaply in paper-bac editions. I am therefore devotin this article entirely to paper-backs which means that all the book mentioned are well within the reach of most of us.

First of all, then, one of the mos interesting volumes on Eastern

eligion that has appeared for many long day. This is "*An Introduc-on to Zen Buddhism,*" by D. T. uzuki (Grey Arrow Books, 2s. 6d.). rof. Suzuki is one of those who ave the gift of making difficult ubjects easy to understand. And en Buddhism is one of those oints of view that for some reason ave become almost fashionable in ur time. His book, in any case, hould be read by all who are in-rested in the beliefs held by other eoples in other parts of the world. might be read jointly with "*The eginnings of Religion,*" by E. O. ames (Grey Arrow Books, 2s. 6d.), n earlier volume in the same ries in which a great expert ex-ains the way in which religion volved on the very early days of e human race.

Very different, but equally osorbing in its way is Sally Bel-age's "*A Room in Moscow*" (Pan ooks, 2s. 6d.). Miss Belfrage is a urnalist, and she spent some onths in Moscow, working in the reign languages publishing epartment there. She has much at is interesting to say of the ay in which the ordinary man nd woman in Moscow lives, and er book is, I think, a really luable contribution to under-anding between East and West.

Much more difficult, but again nportant in a different field is rof. A. J. Ayer's "*The Problem of nowledge*" (Pelican Books, 3s. l.). Anyone who has seen or heard rof. Ayer in the B.B.C. Brains rust will know that he is a very rthright and critical thinker, and this volume in the Penguin ilosophy Series he makes quite ear his own point of view. The ook is, as I have suggested, not asy reading; but I think that it ill be found rewarding by all who e able to deal with such a diffi-ult subject.

More technical, but likewise nportant, is Egon Larsen's book Atomic Energy" (Pan Books, 2s. 6d.). I should know (I myself have written books on this subject), and I can assure any reader that it is not at all easy to make such technical topics understandable by the ordinary non-scientist; but Mr. Larsen does not put a foot wrong; his book is clear and well-written; and it makes obvious something which so many people do not appreciate—the fact that the sole use of atomic energy is *not* just in bombs, but that it has many important applications which can make life easier for millions of people.

A "must" for television viewers is "*The Quatermass Experiment,*" by Nigel Kneale (Penguin Books, 2s. 6d.), which reprints the script of one of the most successful of all television serials. The story is a rather horrifying one in the so-called "science-fiction" field; but all who are interested in the technique of writing for television will find value in the way in which the story is worked out. It is, as far as I know, the first script of a television play to appear in book form, and as such is perhaps a pioneering example which other authors and other publishers may soon find themselves following.

Finally, a book which you can regard as a lesson or as a mere exercise in the art of crime detection. "*The Medical Murderer,*" by Rupert Furneaux (Panther Books, 2s. 6d.) tells the stories of a number of doctors who, at intervals over the past century or so, have committed murder. The stories are drawn from Great Britain, the United States, and other countries, and they give one a vivid picture of what may happen to a man who should be devoting himself to the care of human beings when the moral and ethical principles of the medical profession cease to have any influence on him.

Well, there you are. Seven widely-varied books, costing only eighteen shillings and sixpence in all.

CORRECTIONS

"In t'June *Unitarian* wheear the tells on t'Assembly Meetin's the sez ez hah "S.O.S." turned aht to mean "Save our Schools." Nay, tha mann say that! Posters 'n' leaflets towd us all it wor "Serve, Support and Strengthen our Schools." Far mooar to t'point!"—*From the President of the Sunday Schools Association.*

The secretary of the Sussex Branch of the World Congress of Faiths is the Rev. John Rowland and not the Rev. Basil Viney as reported in our July issue.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

HOME CHURCHES

The ladies of UNITY CHURCH, SHEFFIELD, spent their annual day by the seaside at Cleethorpes. The Men's Fellowship organised a very successful car treasure hunt.

The Senior Choir of Astley County Grammar School was due to pay a visit to DUKINFIELD in July.

Seventy scholars and parents from MOSSLEY spent a day at Cleveleys in June.

At the Annual Assembly of the Western Union, Mrs. Dickin, the retiring president, presented the retiring secretary and District Minister, the Rev. G. Randall Jones, with a wallet containing two hundred guineas "as a token of the esteem and gratitude the members of the Assembly (both congregations and individual subscribers) felt towards him."

The 35th A.G.M. of the Women's League (Western District) was held at Lewin's Mead, Bristol on June 1st. The following officers were elected: Mrs. H. Whitaker (Sidmouth) President and Western District representative, Mrs. S Taylor (Trowbridge) Vice-president Mrs. E. M. Lee (Bath) Treasurer Mrs. G. Burnett (Bristol) Secretary Increased donations were made to headquarters and the India Fund The service in the afternoon was conducted by Mrs. A. H. Birtles and the sermon preached by the Rev Barbara Thomas.

The annual outing of BRIDPORT Women's League was to the Isle of Wight and that of the Mothers Meeting to Torquay.

SIDMOUTH celebrated 250 years existence on June 11th and 12th with a special meeting and services Preachers and speakers included the Rt. Hon. J. Chuter Ede, the Rev. L Redfern and the chairman of the local council.

At the annual meeting, on June 9th. the Rev. N. J. Teape was welcomed to the ministries of Bed

ield and Framlingham, which he is ndertaking along with Ipswich. The ecretary of the G. A. Publicity Department, the Rev. Graham hort, described the functional and nancial connection which exists etween the Postal Mission and the ublicity Department.

Plans are in hand at KNUTSFORD or the celebration of the 150th nniversary of the birth of Mrs. Gaskell. Our church there will play big part in the town's celebrations s Mrs. Gaskell's husband mini- ered there for several years and Mrs. Gaskell's grave is in the rounds. The Schoolroom will ouse a "Gaskell and Historical xhibition." The preacher at a askell commemoration service on unday, September 25th will be Mr. Pollard, Lecturer in English in e University of Manchester. riends of Knutsford will be terested to know that Mrs. Albert nith is organising a subscription nd for the purpose of meeting the st of floodlighting the chapel rmanently.

Total donations from ALTRINCHAM r World Refugee Year were £154. ILL HILL, Leeds reached a grand tal of £350.

The Rev. D. Roy John has signed his ministry at CARDIFF. e church is going through a her difficult period as pressure being applied by Cardiff Univer- y which desires to extend its emises over the ground leased to e church.

Mr. A. Amphlett, for 34 years easurer and now chairman of DDERMINSTER, was presented with a coffee table, pipe and tobacco as a token of the thanks of the congregation.

HALE BARNS' Garden Party at the home of Mr. and Mrs Armitstead raised over £100. The minister lit a fire and fried sausages by the River Bollin for U.Y.P.L.'ers returning from a mystery ramble.

The world premiere of "The Princess and the Servant" was given at BROADWAY, Bradford, earlier this year. The play was written and acted by members of the Sunday School.

Children of AINSWORTH had their annual outing at Lytham. ILFORD children went to Thorpe Bay.

Forty-one members from PLYMOUTH had their outing to Oxford. The Rev. Dudley Richards was the preacher at the church's John Pound's Birthday Services. The choir of the John Pounds Portsea School for Girls sang at the morning service.

The theme of the 42nd Annual Meetings of Manchester College, Oxford Old Students' Association was "The Necessity of the Imagination." Papers were read by Mrs. Ada Tonkin, Mr. Martin Dodson and the Revs. H. L. Short, Bruce Findlow and R. I. Pritchard.

Sermons were preached by leaving students T. Jones and D. Mills, at the Closing Proceedings of the Unitarian College, Manchester. An address was given by the Rev. W. Waddington. The Valedictory Service at Cross Street Chapel was conducted by the Rev. T. J. Jones.

The Forward Movement Committee in BOLTON is to remain in existence, and inter-church meetings and social events will become a regular feature of Bolton Unitarianism.

For an experimental period of three months, Sunday Services at HACKNEY will be held at 11 a.m. instead of 6.30 p.m. Sunday School will meet at the same time instead

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NGS AIN'T WHAT THEY SED TO BE

Only the midnight walk was quiet s year; perhaps this was due to Rev. Dudley Richards focusing attention on, for a change, the nders of the heavenly bodies."

Y.U. Report of the U.Y.P.L. G.M.

of in the afternoon and will become a Junior Church.

The Rev. E. Savill Hicks, M.A., celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ministry at the Unitarian Church, St. Stephen's Green, DUBLIN and his Diamond Jubilee in the ministry this year. At the meeting of the Synod of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland in June he became Moderator for the coming year.

During part of August the Rev. H. J. McLachlan, BELFAST, will be in North Austria working under United Nations' Association auspices on a rehousing project for refugees.

Miss M. McCafferty has been a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast choir for 39 years. At a social hour in June she was presented with a transistor portable radio set on behalf of the congregation.

On the first Saturday in July members of URMSTON relaid the paths surrounding the church with two loads of ready mixed concrete.

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